



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

**TO:** Interested Parties File No. 1210.40 (EA)

**FROM:** Stephen A. Hill, Chief  
Toxics Cleanup Division  
SF Bay Region RWQCB

**DATE:** September 6, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Update on Environmental Screening Levels ("ESLs") Technical Document

Staff of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has previously prepared a February 2005 update to the technical document *Screening For Environmental Concerns at Sites With Contaminated Soil and Groundwater* (Interim Final - February 2005). Water Board staff currently plan to issue updated ESLs and the associated technical support document by mid-2007. Please note the new contact information noted below for comments and questions regarding the ESLs

The February 2005 ESL document incorporates California Human Health Screening Levels (CHHSLs) for soil and soil gas published in December 2004 by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. These screening levels address direct exposure to soil and potential vapor intrusion into buildings. Screening levels very similar to the CHHSLs were included in the July 2003 edition of the ESL document, and the February 2005 edition of the ESL document included revisions to make the ESLs more consistent with approaches used to develop the CHHSLs. As discussed in the accompanying guidance document, the CHHSLs do not address all potential environmental concerns that may be present at sites where contaminated soil and groundwater are identified. The updated ESL document offers one approach to evaluate these additional concerns.

A more detailed summary of updates is provided in Chapter 1 and Appendix 8 of the ESL document. The document is intended to help expedite the identification of potential environmental concerns at sites where contaminated soil and groundwater have been identified, and ultimately expedite the cleanup and redevelopment of these properties. As an alternative to preparing a detailed, baseline environmental risk assessment, soil, groundwater and other data collected at a site can be directly compared to the ESLs and the need for additional actions determined in an expedited risk assessment. This approach has been shown to be especially effective and efficient at sites with limited or relatively straightforward types of contamination, where the preparation of a more formal risk assessment may not be warranted or feasible due to time and cost constraints.

This document is not intended to establish policy or regulation. Use of this document is entirely optional on the part of the discharger and is subject to the approval of the overseeing regulatory agency and staff case manager. This document will be periodically updated as needed. Please send comments and edits in writing to the contact noted below. Water Board staff overseeing work at a specific site should be contacted prior to use of this document in order to ensure that the document is applicable to the site and that the user has the most up-to-date version available.

For further information, please contact:

Elizabeth Allen Toxics Cleanup Division Telephone: 510-622-2332 E-mail: <a href="mailto:eallen@waterboards.ca.gov">eallen@waterboards.ca.gov</a>	Stephen Hill, Chief Toxics Cleanup Division Telephone: 510-622-2361 E-mail: <a href="mailto:shill@waterboards.ca.gov">shill@waterboards.ca.gov</a>
---	---

